

**IN THE MUNICIPAL COURT OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON
IN AND FOR THE CITY OF MONTESANO**

In Re:

NEW FACE MASK POLICY

GENERAL ORDER NO. 1-2021

This General Order will address a change in Court policies given a significant increase in positive cases of the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) in this County.

On July 27, 2021, the CDC issued a recommendation for everyone in areas of substantial or high transmission to wear a mask in public indoor places, even if they are fully vaccinated. New data indicates the Delta variant, the predominant strain of this virus in the United States, is transmissible among vaccinated individuals. In late July, eight Western Washington Counties, including the county where we are located, issued a joint statement recommending masks in indoor public places.

All available research continues to indicate that widely available vaccines provide significant protection against this disease. However, to slow the transmission of the virus and to reduce the serious risk of hospitalization and death for unvaccinated individuals, the court hereby **ORDERS** the following:

Beginning August 16, 2021, all individuals, regardless of vaccination status, must wear a face mask in public and common areas of the court at all times.

All individuals must wear a face mask in the courtroom unless directed to remove their mask by the presiding judge. Individuals who are participating in Court proceedings will be advised to remove their mask to speak. Witnesses will be asked to remove their mask while they

are on the witness stand.

Masks must cover the nose and mouth. All individuals are to observe social distancing in the public areas of the court and courtrooms except as authorized by individual judges in courtroom proceedings. Children under the age of two are not required to wear face masks. Individuals who cannot wear a face mask for health reasons but who otherwise must appear in Court are advised to contact the clerk to meet with the judge presiding over the matter they are attending for further guidance.

The court will revisit these procedures prior to October 1, 2021.

Dated this 16th day of August, 2021.

Christopher C. Bates
CHRISTOPHER C. BATES
MONTESANO MUNICIPAL COURT JUDGE